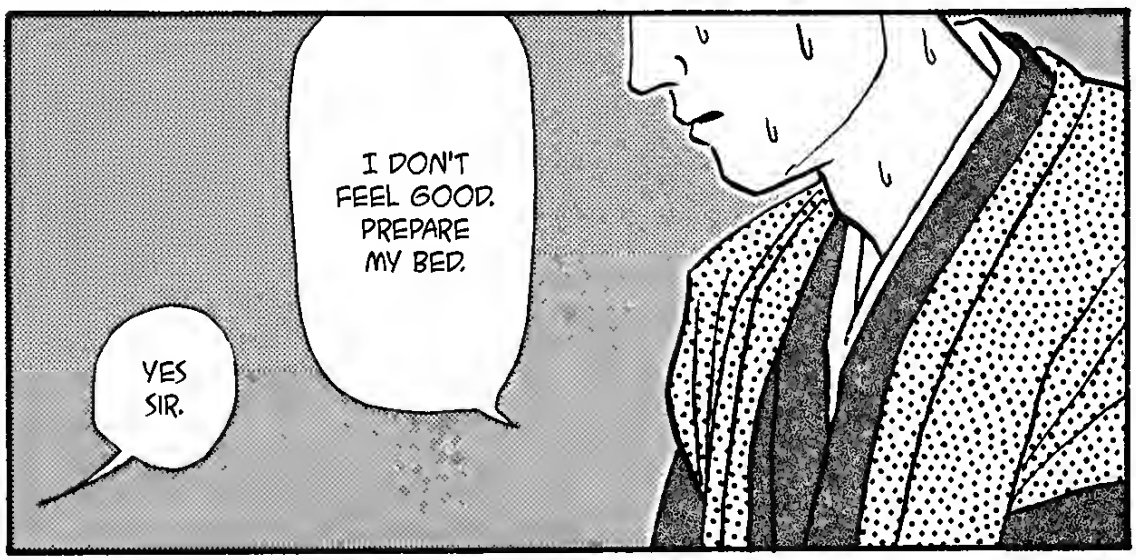
Tale 8

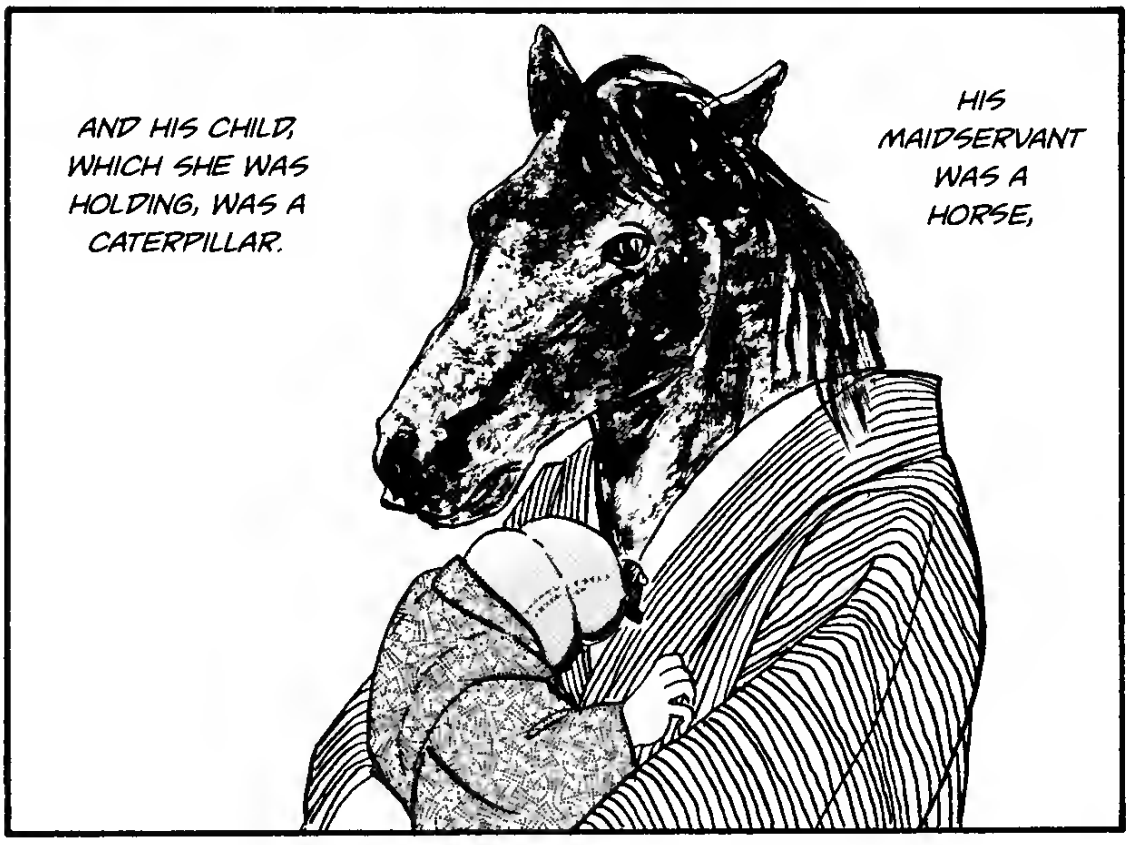
A Grotesque Family

YOSHIDA WAS A SAMURAI WHO WORKED AT THE TOWN OFFICE. ONE DAY, THE HEAT MADE HIM FEEL SO NAUSEATED THAT HE WENT HOME EARLY.

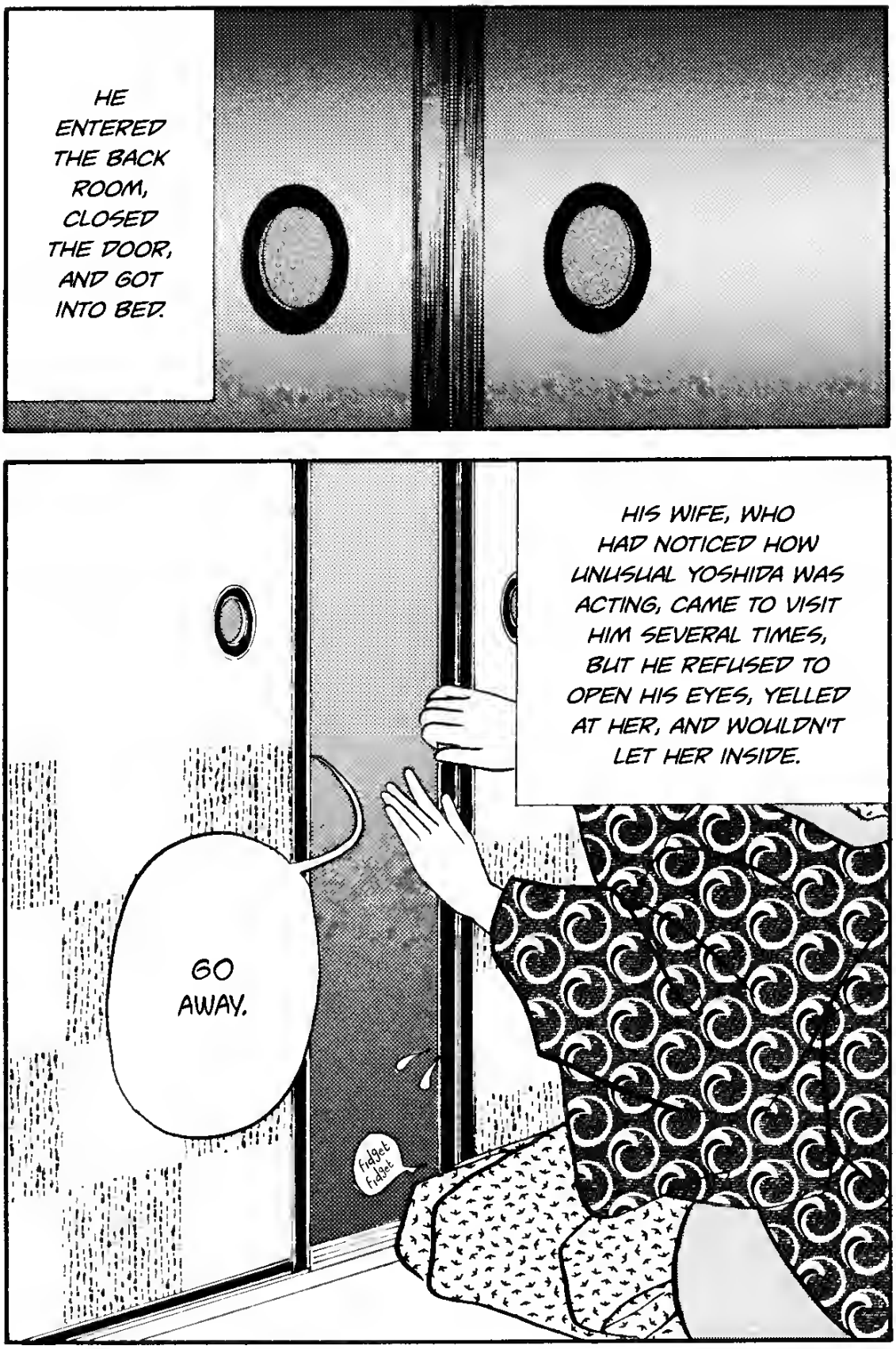

I DON'T FEEL GOOD. PREPARE MY BED.
YES SIR.

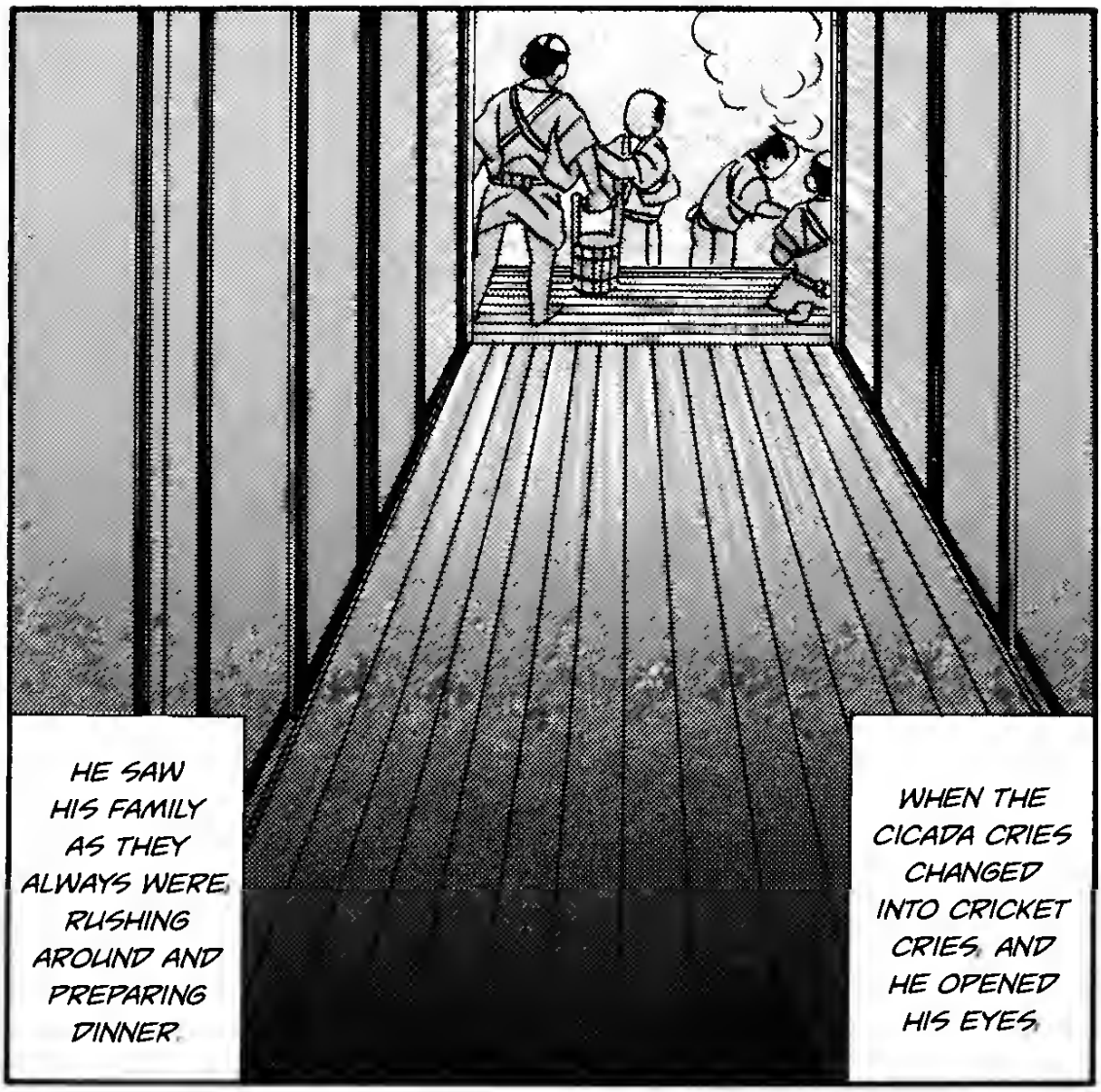
WELCOME HOME, DEAR.
WHEN HE GOT HOME AND SAW HIS WIFE, SHE HAD THE FACE OF A COW.

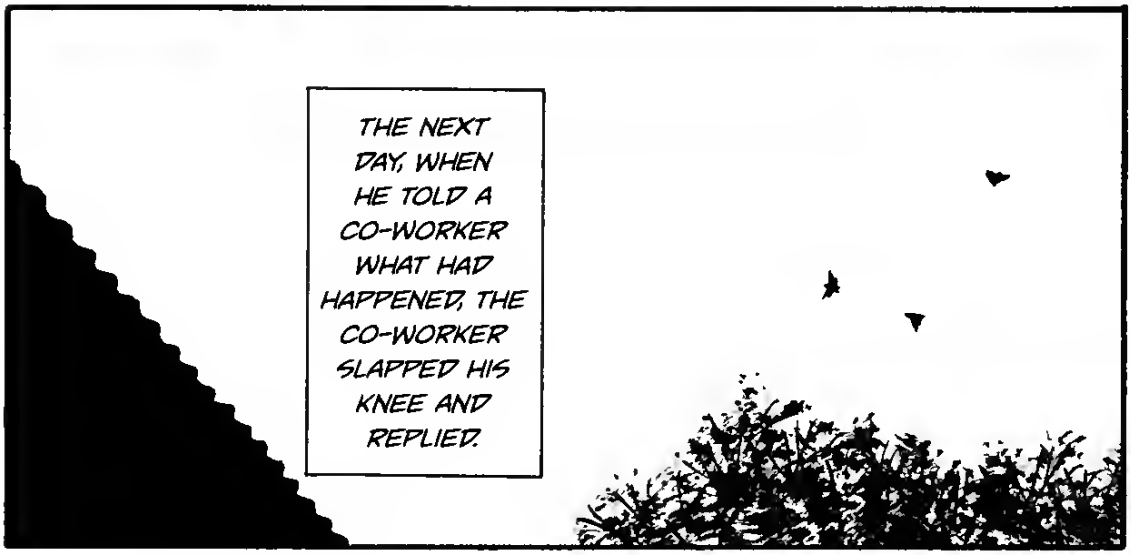
HIS FOOTMAN, WHO WAS SITTING NEARBY, WAS A FROG.

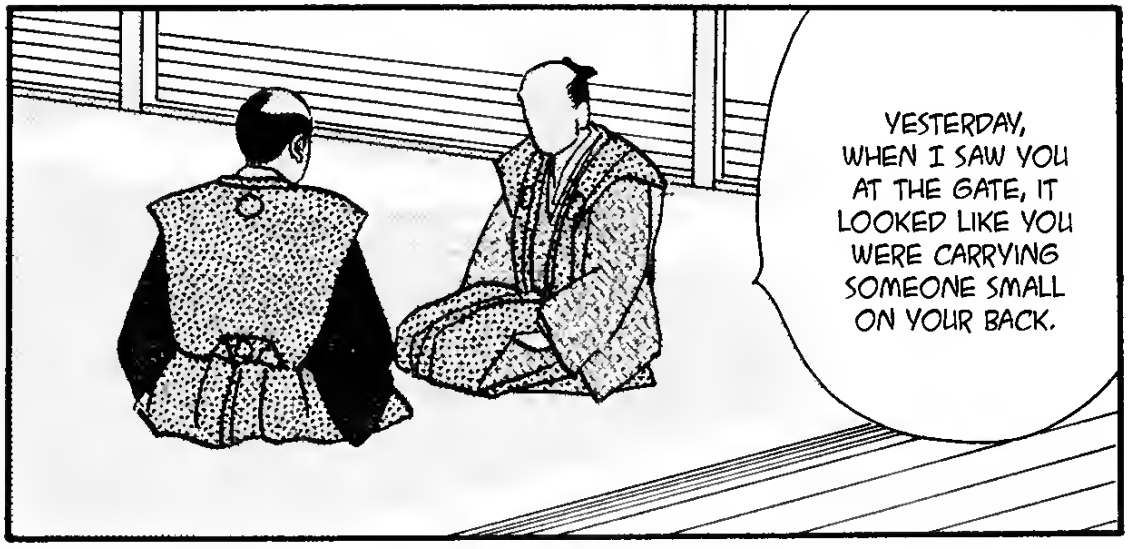

HIS MAIDSERVANT WAS A HORSE,
AND HIS CHILD, WHICH SHE WAS HOLDING, WAS A CATERPILLAR.

EVEN THOUGH THEY LOOKED STRANGE, THEIR VOICES AND BEHAVIOR WERE NO DIFFERENT THAN ALWAYS.
YOSHIDA PLACED A HAND ON HIS KATANA, BUT THEN TOOK A DEEP BREATH AND CHANGED HIS MIND.


HE ENTERED THE BACK ROOM, CLOSED THE DOOR, AND GOT INTO BED.
HIS WIFE, WHO HAD NOTICED HOW UNUSUAL YOSHIDA WAS ACTING, CAME TO VISIT HIM SEVERAL TIMES, BUT HE REFUSED TO OPEN HIS EYES, YELLED AT HER, AND WOULDN'T LET HER INSIDE.
GO AWAY.
fidget fidget


HE SAW HIS FAMILY AS THEY ALWAYS WERE, RUSHING AROUND AND PREPARING DINNER.
WHEN THE CICADA CRIES CHANGED INTO CRICKET CRIES, AND HE OPENED HIS EYES.


THE NEXT DAY, WHEN HE TOLD A CO-WORKER WHAT HAD HAPPENED, THE CO-WORKER SLAPPED HIS KNEE AND REPLIED.


YESTERDAY, WHEN I SAW YOU AT THE GATE, IT LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE CARRYING SOMEONE SMALL ON YOUR BACK.

I COULDN'T SEE WHY YOU WOULD EVER BRING YOUR CHILD TO WORK, SO I FOUND IT CURIOUS, BUT I SUPPOSE NOW THAT IT MUST HAVE BEEN A DEMON.